

Message Text

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14

ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 BIB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

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DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:NGANDREWS/LVA

APPROVED BY EUR:JAARMITAGE

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R 092200Z MAR 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL MUNICH

INFO AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 057230

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SOPN

SUBJECT: PERSONNEL SITUATION AT RFE

1. WASHINGTON POST, MARCH 9, CARRIES ARTICLE BY MICHAEL GETLER HEADLINED "MORALE LOW AFTER DISPUTE AT RFE" CONCERNING THE "POTENTIAL SERIOUS INTERNAL DISPUTE" BETWEEN DEPUTY DIRECTOR RICHARD COOK AND THE BROADCASTING OPERATION'S NEW DIRECTOR ALBERT HEMSING. ARTICLE SAYS COOK HAS COME TO THE BRINK OF RESIGNING AND 300 RFE EMPLOYEES HAVE SIGNED A PETITION SUPPORTING HIM. IN A TELEPHONE INTERVIEW YESTERDAY COOK ADMITTED THAT HE AND HEMSING HAD "A CLASH OF OPINION" BUT DECLINED TO COMMENT FURTHER. THE DISPUTE IS SAID TO INCLUDE THE APPROACH RFE TAKES TO BROADCASTING INTO EASTERN EUROPE AND BASIC ATTITUDES TOWARDS NEWS. ARTICLE RECALLS THAT COOK IS ONE
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OF THE FEW REMAINING LINKS TO THE VETERAN EMPLOYEES OF

RFE.

2. DEPARTMENT HAS LEARNED THAT HEMSING WILL LEAVE
WASHINGTON MARCH 10 FOR MUNICH. COOK MEANWHILE IS GOING
ON ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE FOR UP TO A MONTH. KISSINGER

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TAGS: SOPN, RFE, (COOK, RICHARD), (HEMSING, ALBERT)
To: MUNICH
Type: TE
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